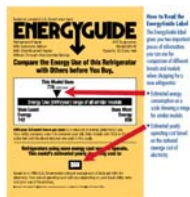


## Low and No Cost Energy Saving Tips

- Sign up for the Equal Payment Plan. This way you will always know how much your utility bill will be. Call Danville Utilities Customer Service at 799-5155 for more information.
- Collect your utility bills. Separate electricity, natural gas, other fuel and water bills. Target the biggest portion of the bill for energy conservation measures.
- Install a programmable thermostat to set your thermostat back automatically at night and when away from home in the colder months. During hotter months, set your thermostat to a higher setting to save on cooling costs. (\*\*Note: if you have a Heat Pump, choose a comfortable thermostat setting and leave it\*\*)
- Insulate: Attic first, crawlspace and exterior walls next. Many contractors advertise free inspections and estimates.
- Insulate hot water pipes and ducts wherever they run through unheated areas such as attics and crawlspaces.
- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F) to save energy.
- Install an insulating blanket on your water heater, especially if your water heater ever feels warm to touch.
- Start using energy-saving settings on refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, and clothes dryers.
- Install storm windows over single pane windows. Boost your window's efficiency with weatherstripping
- As a less costly and less permanent alternative for windows, install the temporary plastic sheeting to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Remember, the plastic must be sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.
- Don't forget to properly seal around any window air conditioning units.
- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is going. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a 48-inch window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air and money to go right up the chimney
- During colder months, take advantage of the free heat on sunny days. Open blinds, shades, and curtains, especially if your windows face south, to help keep your apartment warm. Then simply turn down the thermostat or close the radiator valves to keep from getting too hot. At night, close the blinds, shades, and curtains to help keep heat in your apartment rather than allowing it to escape through the window.
- During warmer months, close blinds, shades, and curtains, especially if your windows face south, during sunny days to help keep your apartment cool. Then simply turn up the thermostat and use your fans. Open windows at night when it's cool to let heat out of your apartment and the cool air in.
- Use cold water for laundry whenever possible to save water heating costs. Use warm water only for very dirty clothes. Most clothes can be washed in either warm or cold water.
- Doing full loads of laundry in the Washer and Dryer saves energy. Sort and organize your laundry so that you will be doing full loads. Do not overload your washer or dryer.
- Be sure to clean the lint from the dryer's filter after every load. The efficiency of the dryer goes down when lint collects over the dryer filter.
- Run the dishwasher only when it's fully loaded.
- Check the gasket (the soft plastic piece that seals the door to the body of the refrigerator) every so often for gaps and improper fit. The door should close firmly against the gasket. If it doesn't, cold air will leak out of the refrigerator..
- Let cooked food cool before putting it in the refrigerator so the refrigerator does not use energy unnecessarily. Try to keep the door open no longer than necessary. Be sure to close the door when you're through.
- Clean the coils located on the back of the refrigerator once a year. Most refrigerators will easily slide away from the wall for cleaning. Unplug the refrigerator before cleaning the coils. Use a vacuum cleaner or a soft brush. See the refrigerator owner's manual for further information.
- Don't peek in the oven when baking. Every time you open the oven door to look at the food, the oven temperature is lowered by 25% to 75%. Use a timer if your oven door does not have a window.
- Don't preheat the oven if the food requires more than one hour of cooking time.
- Don't use the oven to help heat your apartment.



- Don't forget to turn off the oven when you're finished cooking.
- Cut the burner or oven off when food is almost ready. Let the residual heat finish the cooking.
- Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
- Bleed trapped air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season; if in doubt about how to perform this task, call a professional.
- If your building is heated with a central boiler, you could close the radiator valves in the rooms that are too warm or unused.
- save  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the electricity used by incandescent bulbs. The best targets are bulbs used several hours a day. Make sure to choose a compact fluorescent model which will fit in your fixture. When using compact fluorescent bulbs, use a 15 minute rule-of-thumb: Turn off the light if you won't need it for at least fifteen minutes.
- Clean or replace furnace, air-conditioner, and heat-pump filters.
- Visit the hardware store. Buy a water-heater blanket, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators to save on water heating and water consumption.
- Rope caulk very leaky windows around the frame. If unsure of how, ask your professional contractor.
- Seal up the largest air leaks in your house—the ones that feel drafty on windy days. Don't overlook utility cut-throughs for pipes and plumbing, gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. All the little, invisible cracks and holes may add up to as much as an open window or door, without you ever knowing it!
- Properly maintain your heating systems, cooling systems and water heaters.
- During the summer, a ceiling fan increases comfort by blowing air downward on room occupants. But that same windchill can actually feel like a draft in winter, which is why ceiling fan motors should be reversed to blow air slowly upward in winter. This helps disperse the warm air that tends to gather near ceilings, distributing it more evenly throughout the room, especially around the perimeter and near the floor. Fan direction is normally controlled by a slide switch on the motor housing. This may be a little inconvenient to reach, but throwing that switch twice a year will pay for itself in improved comfort and energy savings.

